

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information, contact:

Mike Gowrylow

(360) 486-2113

**Taxable Retail Sales Drop 2.7%, Retail Trade Rises 1.3% During First Quarter 2002**

**OLYMPIA**, Wash., July 18, 2002—Taxable retail sales reported by Washington businesses declined 2.7 percent during the first quarter of 2002 compared to the first three months of 2001, although the retail trade component was up 1.3 percent.

All taxable retail sales includes sales taxes derived from such volatile sectors as contracting and manufacturing, while retail trade only counts sales by retail outlets.

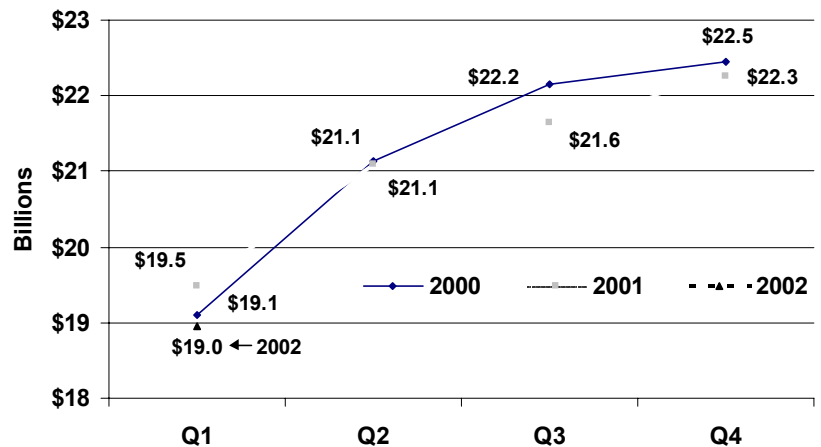
The results are included in the Quarterly Business Review posted online this week at <http://dor.wa.gov>.

Overall sales dropped to \$18.96 billion from \$19.48 billion for the year-earlier period. Retail trade was \$9.75 billion compared to \$9.63 million in 2001.

King County, which accounts for about 40 percent of all economic activity in the state, experienced an 8.1 percent drop in taxable retail sales although retail trade was down a lesser 2.9 percent.

Snohomish County saw a 3.2

**Statewide Taxable Retail Sales**



(more)

percent drop in taxable sales but eked out a 0.9 percent gain in retail trade. Pierce County was up 2.3 percent overall and 7.2 percent higher in retail trade. In Eastern Washington, Spokane County dropped 3.1 percent overall but gained 2.3 percent in retail trade.

Among cities, Seattle was down 6.3 percent and 2.8 percent, respectively, while Everett was down 8 percent and 4.4 percent. Tacoma was down 2.6 percent overall, but gained 5.2 percent in retail trade. Spokane was down 5.4 percent and 0.5 percent.

Bright spots include Bremerton, up 10.8 percent and 19.3 percent, respectively; Fife, up 7.4 and 11; Lacey, up 12.4 and 13.8 percent; and Richland, up 1.4 percent and 21.8 percent.

Weak areas included many King County cities, with Bellevue down 7.5 percent overall and 6.1 percent in retail trade; Redmond, down 20.8 and 5.2; Renton, down 6 and 4.7; and Tukwila, down 18.6 and 4.6.

While sales at malls were crucial factors to some cities, most of the losses in overall taxable retail sales were due to diminished construction activity. Contracting in King County, for example, dropped 18.8 percent.

Complete results for all counties and cities, including breakdowns of sales by industry sector, are available online in the statistical reports section, or at [http://dor.wa.gov/content/Statistical\\_Reports/qbrSearch/stats\\_QBRData1.asp](http://dor.wa.gov/content/Statistical_Reports/qbrSearch/stats_QBRData1.asp).

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## TAXABLE RETAIL SALES BY COUNTY

### All Taxable Retail Sales\*

### Retail Trade Only\*\*

(\$000) add three digits to all figures

	1st Quarter 01	1st Quarter 02	Change	1st Quarter 01	1st Quarter 02	Change
Adams	\$32,039	\$32,604	1.8%	\$9,568	\$12,398	29.6%
Asotin	29,931	28,951	-3.3%	18,883	19,096	1.1%
Benton	395,454	424,031	7.2%	221,840	246,418	11.1%
Chelan	206,034	196,852	-4.5%	104,317	104,994	0.6%
Clallam	143,327	151,314	5.6%	81,124	86,422	6.5%
Clark	761,458	767,396	0.8%	366,661	378,141	3.1%
Columbia	5,503	5,590	1.6%	2,397	2,478	3.4%
Cowlitz	239,967	244,948	2.1%	131,977	134,192	1.7%
Douglas	49,862	61,920	24.2%	31,860	39,222	23.1%
Ferry	4,975	4,980	0.1%	2,288	2,138	-6.5%
Franklin	142,689	152,149	6.6%	61,501	64,636	5.1%
Garfield	3,349	2,845	-15.0%	1,034	1,086	5.1%
Grant	157,851	154,306	-2.2%	72,735	75,001	3.1%
Grays Harbor	145,264	181,317	24.8%	81,650	81,335	-0.4%
Island	122,849	130,187	6.0%	54,468	57,355	5.3%
Jefferson	59,577	59,685	0.2%	24,218	25,405	4.9%
King	8,652,300	7,951,308	-8.1%	3,822,708	3,713,608	-2.9%
Kitsap	551,846	568,221	3.0%	337,799	371,849	10.1%
Kittitas	85,356	82,332	-3.5%	39,813	41,024	3.0%
Klickitat	23,063	40,645	76.2%	6,924	7,961	15.0%
Lewis	207,864	287,426	38.3%	95,386	97,646	2.4%
Lincoln	12,071	11,081	-8.2%	4,690	4,673	-0.4%
Mason	70,033	79,036	12.9%	38,846	39,544	1.8%
Okanagan	58,557	59,171	1.0%	31,154	32,778	5.2%
Pacific	28,849	27,282	-5.4%	13,057	12,532	-4.0%
Pend Oreille	9,986	9,646	-3.4%	4,268	4,549	6.6%
Pierce	1,953,842	1,998,635	2.3%	1,058,359	1,134,888	7.2%
San Juan	53,149	54,111	1.8%	15,762	15,086	-4.3%
Skagit	386,785	386,186	-0.2%	243,459	242,739	-0.3%
Skamania	12,778	12,909	1.0%	2,272	2,059	-9.4%
Snohomish	1,814,165	1,755,633	-3.2%	994,498	1,003,703	0.9%
Spokane	1,249,238	1,210,450	-3.1%	683,452	699,303	2.3%
Stevens	44,473	46,939	5.5%	25,768	26,704	3.6%
Thurston	592,118	637,778	7.7%	322,489	356,994	10.7%
Wahkiakum	4,069	3,926	-3.5%	1,374	1,137	-17.2%
Walla Walla	126,346	118,747	-6.0%	56,447	56,568	0.2%
Whatcom	482,626	466,143	-3.4%	262,350	259,905	-0.9%
Whitman	73,731	70,249	-4.7%	31,470	32,304	2.7%
Yakima	484,519	479,888	-1.0%	267,644	265,685	-0.7%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$19,477,892</b>	<b>\$18,956,815</b>	<b>-2.7%</b>	<b>\$9,626,511</b>	<b>\$9,753,558</b>	<b>1.3%</b>

\*All taxable retail sales includes retailing, services, contracting (construction), manufacturing, transportation, communications, utilities, wholesaling, finance, insurance, real estate and others. Sales taxes from contracting can be highly volatile.

\*\*Retail Trade includes taxable sales of building materials and hardware, general merchandise, food, auto dealers, apparel, furnishings, eating/drinking places, and miscellaneous retail stores. This figure better represents consumer purchases.

## TAXABLE RETAIL SALES BY SELECTED CITIES

	All Taxable Retail Sales*			Retail Trade Only**		
	(\$000) add three digits to all figures					
	1st Quarter 01	1st Quarter 02	Change	1st Quarter 01	1st Quarter 02	Change
Aberdeen	\$75,188	\$75,131	-0.1%	\$52,692	\$52,490	-0.4%
Auburn	322,995	313,079	-3.1%	171,809	169,815	-1.2%
Bellevue	1,031,534	953,799	-7.5%	536,246	503,668	-6.1%
Bellingham	324,725	329,074	1.3%	196,089	203,081	3.6%
Bremerton	129,661	143,695	10.8%	83,410	99,522	19.3%
Camas	33,287	28,281	-15.0%	9,168	8,455	-7.8%
Centralia	60,834	55,987	-8.0%	31,790	30,768	-3.2%
Chehalis	57,763	61,482	6.4%	40,222	43,377	7.8%
Colville	26,860	27,543	2.5%	18,226	19,049	4.5%
Des Moines	43,000	36,464	-15.2%	20,946	20,593	-1.7%
Edmonds	114,640	102,751	-10.4%	69,038	65,213	-5.5%
Ellensburg	59,791	54,619	-8.7%	30,585	31,542	3.1%
Everett	514,705	473,377	-8.0%	271,435	259,407	-4.4%
Federal Way	277,968	268,770	-3.3%	180,623	176,777	-2.1%
Fife	124,212	133,427	7.4%	73,518	81,624	11.0%
Issaquah	235,100	211,751	-9.9%	122,230	130,736	7.0%
Kelso	44,873	43,546	-3.0%	28,274	26,869	-5.0%
Kennewick	234,865	260,416	10.9%	156,532	168,868	7.9%
Kent	530,715	495,536	-6.6%	191,094	189,570	-0.8%
Kirkland	315,889	286,021	-9.5%	176,563	168,920	-4.3%
Lacey	112,720	126,676	12.4%	61,465	69,941	13.8%
Longview	138,300	148,200	7.2%	80,681	84,427	4.6%
Lynnwood	399,124	372,840	-6.6%	273,919	273,722	-0.1%
Marysville	91,393	88,275	-3.4%	49,859	49,145	-1.4%
Mercer Island	66,770	55,518	-16.9%	12,377	12,177	-1.6%
Moses Lake	87,933	81,737	-7.0%	48,715	46,571	-4.4%
Mount Vernon	98,107	105,476	7.5%	64,775	69,782	7.7%
Mountlake Terrace	35,070	32,891	-6.2%	15,801	13,956	-11.7%
Oak Harbor	55,627	59,064	6.2%	34,959	36,980	5.8%
Olympia	322,431	332,292	3.1%	191,649	210,353	9.8%
Omak	20,112	21,863	8.7%	14,926	16,050	7.5%
Pasco	127,494	137,979	8.2%	59,132	62,529	5.7%
Port Angeles	55,761	57,771	3.6%	30,399	30,051	-1.1%
Port Townsend	32,198	31,132	-3.3%	15,866	15,682	-1.2%
Pullman	53,166	51,199	-3.7%	25,173	26,497	5.3%
Puyallup	288,713	309,158	7.1%	210,647	227,495	8.0%
Redmond	460,558	364,538	-20.8%	157,240	149,138	-5.2%
Renton	407,701	383,250	-6.0%	232,010	221,058	-4.7%
Richland	121,953	123,611	1.4%	51,458	62,671	21.8%
SeaTac	191,913	161,240	-16.0%	31,945	30,713	-3.9%
Seattle	3,141,908	2,943,543	-6.3%	1,234,701	1,200,240	-2.8%
Shelton	33,602	37,161	10.6%	22,122	23,191	4.8%
Spokane	723,774	684,805	-5.4%	382,933	380,944	-0.5%
Sunnyside	45,491	45,741	0.5%	28,965	28,445	-1.8%
Tacoma	827,635	805,927	-2.6%	433,355	455,920	5.2%
Tukwila	462,884	376,993	-18.6%	269,564	257,056	-4.6%
Vancouver	443,211	430,494	-2.9%	229,052	225,949	-1.4%
Walla Walla	96,483	88,997	-7.8%	46,707	47,392	1.5%
Wenatchee	124,596	122,253	-1.9%	73,514	72,893	-0.8%
Yakima	275,300	272,265	-1.1%	159,331	157,920	-0.9%

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